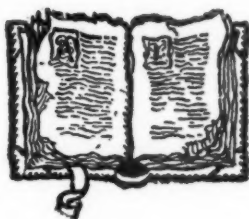


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ARKANSAS LIBRARIES



Vol. 5, Series II

April 1949

Number 4

Issued Quarterly

ARKANSAS LIBRARY COMMISSION

In Co-operation With

ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
GENERAL LIBRARY

Arkansas Libraries

Vol. 5, Series II

April 1949

Number 4

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GIVE THEM THE BEST

By
Ida Mae Hagin, Children's Librarian
Little Rock Public Library

Selecting books for children is one of the many pleasures and privileges of a librarian, teacher or parent. In this day of mass book production, radios, movies, and the ever present comic books, careful book selection becomes a serious obligation.

Perhaps the ideal way to do this is to examine each book before you buy. Bookstores, libraries, book salesmen's wares, and publisher's exhibits at school and library meetings offer good opportunities for this first-hand examination. A note book and pencil in your purse will be invaluable to jot down those titles you may want to put on your buying list.

If possible, borrow the books and let the children, parents, and teachers see and use them. Are they really titles which interest the children and which they are able to read? This first-hand examination also gives the librarian a good chance to examine the format, binding, type of paper, stitching, etc. Is the binding good, or should it be pre-bound in buckram? How are the illustrations? Does the book have a good index? Check with the basic lists. Is the book recommended?

It always seems to be a good idea to keep a "want" list of books ready in case a sudden windfall comes your way. This buying list should grow as the children in the community grow and develop. A list made hurriedly overnight can sometimes prove unwise.

Money should be spent for the books that will reach the most children. There are many special books that children want—books that will probably be used only one or two times. Try to borrow these. Remember there are many children who will enjoy the same basic books year in

and year out. Consider this group when you buy.

Along with the idea of trying to build up a basic, well-rounded collection that children will love and enjoy, the familiar problem of the budget comes up again. The less money there is to spend, the more each title must be weighed against the other. This book is good—shows the process of making cotton into cloth—but would not this title be better, for it discusses silk, linen, wool and the making of other materials? Then there is the matter of timeliness to be considered. Should we buy this expensive book on jet planes and atomic energy when it may be out of date in six months? Would a pamphlet serve, or could we borrow the book from the Arkansas Library Commission?

A wonderful thing about selecting and buying juveniles is that very few children are "best seller list" conscious. They like the good old standard classics, such as "Little Women", and "Hans Brinker" in their new dresses and formats just as well as they do the new "Black Stallion Returns" and "Dot for Short." Both the old and the new books are necessary for a well-rounded collection.

To provide a growing, useful and enjoyable collection, try to consider the lasting value of a book. Is it the modern, passing-fancy sort or one likely to endure? (Compare a book like "Kilroy Was Here" with "Wind in the Willows").

To quote Christopher Morley:

"When you give a child a book you aren't just giving him eight ounces of paper and ink and glue. You are

giving him dreams for the rest of his days and thoughts to spur him on to better living. Let's make it a good book!"

Authoritative lists are very necessary to librarians. They cannot always find ample time in which to examine titles for purchase. Even if this were possible, it would still be a good thing to check with reliable sources for opinions on books. There are many lists compiled by librarians, teachers, and specialists in children's reading. Some are of a general nature and contain many titles while others are even more highly selected and are much shorter. There are also those for specific groups. There are current reviews in many magazines and in newspaper supplements. Most of the titles given below are from standard approved lists. At least some of them are used constantly by most librarians and nearly all are annotated. Of course the usefulness of any list depends on the sound judgment of the librarian. No book list is infallible. Every book on the list will not be suitable for every community. Lists are compiled to cover large areas, not small sections of a state or county.

GENERAL

CHILDREN'S CATALOG: A dictionary catalog of 4200 books with analytical entries for 637 books and classified list indicating subject headings; compiled by Ruth Giles, D. E. Cook, and D. H. West. 7th edition revised, H. W. Wilson Company. 1946. Service basis.

Kept up to date by annual supplements free to purchasers of main set. This is the most complete list available. An important "must." Learn to use this correctly. Divided into two sections: alphabetical by author, title and subject; classified according to Dewey. Also has list by grades, out-of-print list, and directory of publishers.

Books For Elementary Grades: Compiled by the Arkansas State De-

partment of Education, Arkansas Library Commission, and University of Arkansas. Inquire: Arkansas State Department of Education or Arkansas Library Commission.

Mimeographed annotated list, arranged by subject, compiled with Arkansas schools and libraries in mind. Gives approximate grade levels.

Arbuthnot, May Hill. CHILDREN AND BOOKS. Scott, 1948. Regular edition \$5.00. Textbook edition, \$3.60.

Textbook on children's literature with very good bibliographies in back. A great deal of research and study have gone into the making of this very useful book.

BASIC BOOK COLLECTION FOR ELEMENTARY GRADES: Compiled by a joint committee of the American Library Association and the National Council of Teachers of English. American Library Association, 1943. \$2.00.

"A classified list of books suited for curricular purposes and for recreational reading." Grade levels indicated. A new list tentatively scheduled for release in 1951 is being planned.

Beust, Nora E. 500 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN. Superintendent of documents, 1940. U. S. Office of Education. Out of Print.

While out of print, many libraries may have this. A fairly brief list but very helpful because of high standards used in selection. Most helpful where there are limited funds. Supplement published in 1945.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS FOR CHILDREN. Association for Childhood Education, 1201 16th Street N. W., Washington 6, D. C. 1948. \$1.00.

Arranged by subject; good annotations with age level indicated for each title.

Eaton, Anne T. TREASURE FOR THE TAKING: A book list for boys and girls. Viking, 1946. \$2.50.

Arranged by subject with age level given. Lively annotations. Will be enjoyed by boys and girls themselves in choosing books to read. No prices given.

National Council of Teachers of English, 211 West 68th Street, Chicago 21, Illinois. **YOUR READING: A** list for grades 7, 8 and 9; compiled by the committee on recreational reading. Pamphlet. Price \$0.30. Prices and publishers are not given.

"Annotated lists of fiction and non-fiction arranged by subjects." Students will like to choose books from this attractive list. The Council has compiled a similar list including books for Senior High School: **BOOKS FOR YOU: A** high school reading list; compiled by the committee on booklists for Junior and Senior High Schools. The Council, 1945. \$0.30. Pamphlet. Prices and publishers are not given.

THE RIGHT BOOK FOR THE RIGHT CHILD, a graded buying list of children's books. Third edition. John Day, 1942. \$3.00.

Arranged by grades, gives full bibliographic information. A very scientific list carefully compiled with the aid of many children and teachers. Includes titles from pre-school through ninth grade.

Rue, Eloise. **SUBJECT INDEX TO BOOKS FOR PRIMARY GRADES:** American Library Association, 1943. \$2.50. First supplement, 1946. American Library Association, \$1.25.

Subject index planned to meet the needs of grades 1-3, includes material in trade books as well as text books. Very helpful in reference work for unit materials for teachers and reference work with elementary school children. List of books indexed gives full buying information and grade levels.

Rue, Eloise. **SUBJECT INDEX TO BOOKS FOR INTERMEDIATES.** American Library Association, 1940.

\$4.50. First supplement, 1943. American Library Association, \$2.50.

Planned to meet the needs of grades 4 to 6. Format same as primary.

SPECIAL SUBJECTS

BOOKS FOR TIRED EYES: A list of books in large print, by Dorothy Wurzburg and Charlotte Matson. American Library Association, Third edition, 1940. \$0.65.

"Interesting, readable fiction and non-fiction chosen for readers of varying tastes. Classified list of 1800 titles for adults and children in 12 point type or larger, with indication of type size for each. Children's graded list."

BOOKS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR STANDARD LIBRARIES. Available from Arkansas Library Commission, free. Mimeographed.

BOOKS TO HELP BUILD INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING: Tentative list selected for children and young people with special reference to the United Nations; compiled by Nora E. Buest. Federal Security Agency, U. S. Office of Education, no date. Free.

Mimeographed, seventeen page list with annotations and appropriate grade levels on an important subject. Material suggested for first grade through senior high school. Also gives aids and sources for free and inexpensive materials on this topic. Very helpful for teachers and librarians.

Carpenter, Helen McCracken. **GATEWAYS TO AMERICAN HISTORY:** An annotated graded list of books for slow learners in junior high school. H. H. Wilson, 1942. \$2.25.

Annotated list of about 200 books of historical fiction and biography. Full information given on each title as to grade to which each will appeal, synopsis, and technical analysis.

National Council of Teachers of English. WE BUILD TOGETHER: A reader's guide to Negro life and literature for elementary and high school use; edited by Charlemae Rollins. Revised Edition. The Council, 1948. \$0.65. Pamphlet.

"This new edition contains an excellent introduction with a statement of standards and attitudes useful in evaluating materials. Annotated bibliography." *Library Journal*.

READING LADDERS FOR HUMAN RELATIONS: Hilda Taba, director. The Council, revised and enlarged edition, 1949, \$1.25. American Council on Education, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

An extensive ladder list designed to help better the understanding of other cultural and racial groups through reading. Grouped under headings as, "Patterns on Family Life", "Rural-Urban Contrasts", "Differences Between Generations", and many others.

Strang, Ruth, and Others. GATEWAYS TO READABLE BOOKS. An annotated graded list of books in many fields for adolescents who find reading difficult. H. W. Wilson, 1944. \$1.25.

About 700 titles for below the average reading ability of pupils in high school. Arranged by subject with grade level and full annotations for each title. Helpful in arousing interest in books.

PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENTS

(Note: Perhaps many of these periodicals could be borrowed for a study of the book review pages.)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JOURNAL. (monthly publication) Includes excellent annotated lists in each issue.

THE HORN BOOK MAGAZINE. The Horn Book, Inc., 248 Boylston Street, Boston 16, Massachusetts. \$3.00 per year.

Published six times a year. A wonderful magazine on children's literature. A great many new books are described each time. A help in any type library where service to children is given.

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE WEEKLY BOOKS. Published weekly by New York Herald Tribune, Inc. \$2.00 per year.

May Lamberton Becker edits a section in Books on "Books for Young People." New books and new editions are reviewed. Spring Book Festival, Book Week and Christmas numbers are excellent.

PARENTS MAGAZINE. (monthly publication) Includes excellent book review section for children. Emphasis usually is on the pre-school child.

THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW. (Section 9 of the New York Times) Issued every Sunday, has a section of reviews for children's books. Book Week and Christmas numbers are specially good.

SCHOOL LIFE. Official journal of the U.S. Office of Education. (monthly publication) Lists practical publications of the United States Government suitable for the small library.

WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN. H. W. Wilson Company. \$2.00. (published monthly except July and August)

Gives many practical book selection suggestions as well as a regular reviewing section in each issue. A good all-around professional magazine for librarians.

For Your Own Reading

Arbuthnot, May Hill. CHILDREN AND BOOKS. Scott, 1948. \$5.00.

Duff, Annis. "BEQUEST OF WINGS", a family's pleasures with books. Viking, 1944. \$2.00.

Eaton, Anne T. READING WITH CHILDREN. Viking, 1940.

Hazard, Paul. CHILDREN, BOOKS AND MEN: Translated by Marguerite Mitchell. Horn Book, 1944. \$3.00.

MILDEW*

A GOOD BUILDING IS BEST PREVENTIVE

A library building located and designed to provide the proper atmosphere for the whole collection is, of course, the ideal method of protection—not only from mildew, but from all other agencies of destruction, including excessive heat, sunlight, dryness, dampness and insect pests. Presumably a scientifically air-conditioned building with the correct conditioning of all space where books are shelved, would prevent mildew; but improper conditioning certainly would not guarantee protection. But the fact that a library has to do with the building it already has, should, at least, encourage it to do everything possible to remedy unfavorable conditions. It would be very difficult to find any justifiable case in which a library was forced to keep rare and valuable books and manuscripts in a damp basement.

DAMP BASEMENTS

Damp basements are probably the scene of most library mildew troubles. Obviously, the best remedy is not to build library basements in such a way that they will become damp. The next best remedy is to get at the cause of the dampness, and where that is not possible, to condition the air in the basement. The three main causes of basement dampness are: (a) leakage of water into the room from the outside, because of poor drainage, porosity of walls and floors, and cracks; (b)

leakage from pipes; (c) "sweating" or condensation of water from the inside air on the pipes or walls or other cold surfaces in the room. Any intelligent and conscientious building contractor can remedy such conditions except in a very unusually located building. (A stack room of one important library is reported to be built right over an abandoned, but not dry well.)

If dampness is traceable to outside drainage, the obvious remedy is better drainage—the simplest solution being usually a tiled ditch around the building. Mending of cracks and painting with water proofing compounds can overcome wall trouble in many cases.

Chronic condensation of moisture from the air in basements (where installation of an air-conditioning system is not feasible) may be relieved in three general ways: 1) insulation of cold surfaces; 2) warming the air; 3) drying the air. Of course, the best method, or combination of methods, would depend on the conditions; the best method in case of a hot, damp climate would not be the best method in case of basement stacks (near a furnace) in a colder climate.

A HOME-MADE DRYER TO COMBAT DAMPNES

Actually getting the moisture out of the air, rather than simply raising the temperature of the air so it will hold more moisture, can be accomplished in many cases with some

* Reprinted in part from New Jersey Library Bulletin, June 1945.

water-absorbing chemical. Where the room is not too large and it can get good air circulation, either natural, or with a fan, a dehumidifying unit can be installed in the room. Such a unit can be purchased ready-made or can be home-made without too much trouble. Essentially, such units are convenient containers for the absorptive material. The material most generally available for the purpose is calcium chloride. Packaged materials under various brand names are also available.

Mildred W. Sandoe, State Library Organizer in Ohio, in an article on "Combatting Basement Dampness" in the Ohio Library Association News Bulletin (November, 1943) reports on some of the methods used in Ohio libraries and schools. In this article, Russell Schunk, Toledo Public Library, tells of dehumidifying units made for use in schools. A unit consists of a cylinder four inches in diameter and one foot high, made of window screen. This is put on a stand (2 inches high) made from scrap lumber, with a hole in the center, covered with screen, and a pan underneath. One basement, 14 by 22 feet, was found to need three units, and the calcium chloride had to be replaced about once a week. When using such units, the windows are kept closed, and it is desirable to

have an electric fan to keep the air circulating.

Where the stack arrangement or the room shape is awkward, small receptacles containing the absorbent material might be kept on the shelves. Of course, books should not be put on the shelves near the floors or walls of damp basements or near water or steam pipes.

PROBE FOR REASONS WHEN MILDEW OCCURS

Whenever a library does have a mildew visitation, whether it be in the basement or any other room, careful study should be given to the exact conditions. What places in the room were most affected? Which shelves, and which parts of the shelves? What kinds of binding were particularly affected? From the answers to these questions may be determined the most effective method for preventing future trouble.

Possibly there are places where it would not be practical to reduce the moisture content of the air rapidly enough during a hot, humid spell. In such places, especially where the library building conditions add to the difficulties, the use of both dehumidifying units in the stacks and mildew inhibitor on the most exposed books might prove adequate.

HORATIO ALGER

January marked the 115th birthday of Horatio Alger. His books are not on the shelves of reputable libraries or in any of the book stores. Horatio Alger's sun has set. This may come as a shock to those who cut their second teeth on his books, but Alger's rags-to-riches stories were not as immortal as Louisa Alcott's "Little Women."

The Alger books were once as popular as the funny books are now. He wrote more than 100 books **Ragged Dick, Luck and Pluck** and **Tattered Tom**, mostly juvenile fiction. The young girls as well as the boys of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries devoured every line of them. Alger books sold by the hundred thousands of copies. Try to buy one in a local book store today. Many of the clerks will not even recognize the name. Alger books are no longer on the market.

They have been out of print for years.

Alger books are taboo with people who select and recommend good fiction and Alger is not even listed in the Junior Book of Authors. For years these books were read religiously by the youth who liked to imagine himself in the role of the Alger hero who started young, worked hard, and rose to success over insurmountable odds. Even today it is not unusual to pick up a newspaper and read that some distinguished person rose to success and fame, "the Alger way".

Horatio Alger was born in Revere, Mass. in 1834. He was a Harvard graduate, journalist, Unitarian minister, and author. He moved to New York City in 1866; and the experiences he gained in his efforts to improve the condition of street urchins were reflected in his writings.

MANILA DEDICATES \$35,000 LIBRARY

By Ruth Horne

Today Manila can boast of a \$35,000 buff brick structure containing a well lighted 32' by 60' reading room, a 32' by 40' projection room in which are shown film strips secured from the state and county libraries, a dark room which is used by the Manila Photography Club, and two storage rooms, which replaces the 10' by 12' frame building which formerly housed the Manila library.

All furniture except the tables and chairs was constructed in the school shop at a cost of \$700. Money for construction materials was furnished by citizens of Manila. Lights, heating system, and theatre seats were also donated by public spirited citizens.

Last November Miss Leila Heasley, School Library Consultant of the Arkansas Library Commission, conducted an extension course in Library Science for 24 of the 45 teachers in the Manila district. Since taking this course the teachers can better instruct the 1782 students in this district. The teachers learned of new materials which may be procured at a very low cost, and learned how to use material which is available in the Manila library.

It was decided to hold Open House on the official opening date so that parents and patrons might see how they could be benefited by this modern library which is truly one of the most beautiful in Arkansas.

On Wednesday, February 16, 1949,

the Open House was held. The Manila Junior Chamber of Commerce offered two \$25 prizes in books to the library from the students who wrote the best themes on "What Our Library Means To Our Community". Winners of the contest were Ida Jo Palmertree, junior and Velma Lee Barnett of the eighth grade. These students' names, with that of their home room teacher, will be engraved on the fly leaf of each book purchased with the prize money.

The Jaycees also gave a \$25 prize in books in honor of the junior class for having the largest number of parents and visitors to register at the Open House.

Divided into three parts, the program was presented three times during the day to Manila citizens and visitors from Texarkana, Jonesboro, Blytheville, Osceola, Wilson, Shawnee, Walnut Ridge, Memphis, Little Rock and Arkansas State College, Jonesboro.

Miss Heasley, speaking on "Better Types of Reading Versus Comics", began the program. She stressed the importance of having an abundant supply of educational materials available for all age groups. Following Miss Heasley's address the primary grades gave several nursery rhyme dramatizations so that parents of pre-school children might see how the library could be helpful to them in choosing reading materials for their children. The exhibits emphasizing the nursery rhymes, were made by pupils from Blackwater, Shady Grove and Manila grade schools.

A skit written by Miss Betty Horne, Art Instructor, was given by grades four through eight to demonstrate how records, film strips, charts, maps and other extra-curricular activities were used in these grades to promote learning.

A film on "Parliamentary Procedure" concluded the formal program.



Open House at Manila

Guests then inspected a display of useful and fine arts materials. There were hooked rugs and leather craft done by Blackwater students; woodwork, photography, and a table of party favors from the Home Economics Department; copies of the **Manila High Lion's Roar**, and a number of paintings and sketches by the art class.

Visitors were greatly impressed with the day's events. One man was heard to say, "Now that I've visited the Manila Library and the Manila schools, I am signing the petition to have my district annexed to Manila".

A Story Hour project is being directed by Miss Annie Rae Jennings, librarian, Miss O. O. Stivers and Miss Rebecca Maddux of the Home Economics Department. Twenty-two Manila children are attending each Friday afternoon.

In order that the adults of the community may have access to the library, Miss Jennings opens the li-

brary each Thursday night from seven until nine o'clock.

During the WPA days Manila owned only a few volumes. Today the district owns 240 volumes. Four hundred and fifty more have been borrowed from Mississippi County Library in Osceola.

In the early days of the Library, the largest circulation in one day was seventy-five books. In January of this year the largest circulation for a single day was 203. Each day in January we averaged 127 books with a total of 2,799 books circulated during the month.

To raise additional funds for the purchase of books, records, projectors, record players, and recording machines, Supt. Fowler has launched a campaign to sell life-time memberships at \$25 each. It is estimated that the campaign should net \$2,500. Names of life-time members will be mounted and placed in a glass case in the library.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

By Mrs. Sara H. Wheeler*

The work of the children's librarian places her in the midst of a great family of children of widely differing tastes and capacities for reading. She shares the confidence of children who are deluged with all sorts of books they don't like and of children who long in vain for books they cannot have. She also shares the confidence of parents who wonder why their children never read the books in sets, the books so confidently recommended as the best for the age of the boy or girl in question. She shares the confidence of authors and publishers as to why their books were or were not sustained in sales.

Librarian's Mission

To me, the fundamental missions of a children's librarian are to pro-

mote understanding of the individual's place in a democratic society which will result in better citizenship and a sense of social obligation; to foster understanding of other peoples; to feed the natural desire for beauty and cultivate the imagination; and to contribute to the development of individual talents and hobbies.

All these aims can be partially aided by careful book selection. It is essential that we include books which will clarify the place of the individual in today's world, and which will dispel intolerance and prejudice. Beauty of thought and character portrayal, as well as beauty of illus-

*Oak Park Public Library
Urbana, Illinois

tration, have long been the criteria for public library book selection. Individual talents and hobbies should be given consideration.

However, may we rest here? Or should we, like Pooh Bear, in A. A. Milne's memorable WINNIE-THE-POOH, make doubly sure? From this stuffed animal can be learned many worthwhile lessons!

"Owl lived at The Chestnuts, an old-world residence of great charm, which was grander than anybody else's, or seemed so to Bear, because it had both knocker and a bell-pull. Underneath the knocker there was a notice which said: PLES RING IF AN RNSER IS REQUIRD. Underneath the bell-pull there was a notice which said: PLES CNOKE IF AN RNSER IS NOT REQUIRD . . . Winnie-the-Pooh read the two notices very carefully, first from the left to the right, and afterwards, in case he had missed some of it, from right to left.

Then to make quite sure, he knocked and pulled the knocker and he pulled and knocked the bell-rope, and he called out in a very loud voice, 'Owl I require an answer! It's Bear speaking.' And the door opened, and Owl looked out."

TO GET RESULTS

Sometimes it is not until we have pulled and knocked the bell-rope, and knocked and pulled the knocker that we get results in bringing children to the love of books. It is not enough simply to supply the books and then hope for the best. Books which point out the worth of the individual and underline the brotherhood of man must be brought forcefully to

children's minds through book talks in the schools and in the library. Beauty of thought and of illustration and stimulation of the imagination are furthered through regular story hours, and by picture-book hours for the little ones.

A summer poster project in the Oak Park Library was quite effective in opening children's eyes to the beauty of illustration. Pictures from the lovely children's book, THE FOREST POOL by Laura Armer, were greatly enlarged in outline form. An artist helped the children color them in tempera. The children, aged four to ten, learned about artists' methods at the same time they were having fun.

The posters became a decorative unit for our walls.

INTEREST IN HOBBIES

Stimulating and developing hobbies is a "natural" for libraries. The children's department can often exhibit the work of its hobby enthusiasts. Book club programs built around demonstrations showing how books have helped in the cultivation of a hobby awaken the interest of others. Hobby clubs and even workshops have been carried on successfully in some libraries.

Staff shortages make knocking and pulling the knocker, and pulling and knocking the bell-rope, strenuous work. But it's worth it—for it pays rich dividends in bringing more children to the happy realization that reading can be fun! Remember, Owl did not answer until after Pooh had done all this. And may children are just like Owl!

NEW NORWEGIAN LAW MAKES PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES COMPULSORY

By Anders Andreassen*

Recognizing the importance of free public libraries for the growth of a democratic society, the Norwegian Parliament has enacted a library law which in principle is unique in the world today. This law, enacted in the fall of 1947 as part of the reconstruction program, makes it obligatory for every one of its schools to establish a free public library, aided by government subsidy.

The system of public libraries is not new in Norway. It is an old tradition, born of peculiar geographical conditions of the country and the urge for knowledge of every Norwegian.

Reasons for Propaganda Failure

One of the main reasons for the failure of Nazi propaganda in Norway, during the occupation, was the high level of education and culture of the common man. He had learned to think for himself. He refused to believe fancy phrases and accept sugary promises. He demanded facts.

The Norwegian school system, built up through generations, naturally can claim a substantial share of the credit for this level of independent thinking, but an equally important part has been played by the Norwegian public libraries. It is a fact that more books are read in Norway in proportion to the population than in any other country in the world.

Norway is a thinly populated country. Small communities and lonely farms are scattered over wide areas, in many parts isolated by high mountain ranges. Even today, with modern transportation facilities, many of these small places have only limited contact with the rest of the

country during the long winter season.

It is obvious that under such conditions schools alone were not enough to bring education to all the people. Of necessity home study had to become an integral part of the educational system. For this purpose books had to be made available. As early as the latter part of the eighteenth century, the first "reading-societies" came into being. They were usually organized by the clergy, and it was a clergyman, the beloved author, poet and politician, Henrik Wergeland, who inspired the first free public libraries.

Another progressive step was taken in 1902 when the Department of Church and Education established a separate bureau for the disbursement of the government grant to public and school libraries, to aid in the organization of new libraries and courses for training librarians. This bureau has become the focal point in Norway's adult education and its activities are constantly expanding.

German Occupation

It was the German occupation, 1940-45, which proved the real significance of public libraries and the important part reading of books played in the lives of the people. The Nazi effort to remove from the libraries all "anti-Nazi" literature met with violent protest; the libraries lost valuable collections, however, and many libraries, particularly in northern Norway, were totally destroyed.

So, in the program of reconstruction, the rebuilding and expansion of the public library system is receiving the prominence it deserves in a modern democratic state.

The 1949 Law

The remarkable Norwegian law will insure that every Norwegian will have free reading and library reference materials, and it makes provision for author royalties on titles used extensively in the library system.

The size of the government subsidy is dependent upon the amount appropriated by the municipality, and varies from 90 per cent down to 50 per cent, with a maximum of 3,000 kroner (\$600.00) to each public library at present. The local subsidy is based on a minimum of 25 oere (5c) per capita. It is expected that most municipalities will appropriate considerably more, and that the government's maximum figure will be

raised as the economic situation improves. The law went into effect on July 1, 1949. The government grant for the first year is estimated at 1,500,000 kroner (\$300.00 or 10c per capita). The equivalent in the United States would be about 15 million dollars. This is only a beginning, but a very good beginning.

It means tightening the belt another notch in the realization that a well-educated and enlightened common man is the most effective safeguard against any enemy of cherished democratic ideals.

* Mr. Andreassen is librarian of the library in Rjukan, Norway. He came to this country in October, 1948 on a UNESCO fellowship, and has visited many U. S. libraries.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The American Library Association, the world's largest and oldest organization for librarians, will hold its 75th anniversary celebration in Chicago in 1951. The celebration will open at the 1950 annual conference of the A.L.A. in Washington, D. C., coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the Library of Congress, and will continue on a nation-wide scale into 1951, when the celebration will be climaxed at the annual conference in Chicago.

In releasing the 1947-48 report, John Mackenzie Cory, Executive Secretary stated, "It is felt that the Association should set measurable goals which would give certain tangible results to be celebrated in 1951. For example, a new statement of policy, designed as the Four Year Goals, was formulated and adopted during the past year. In the Four Year Goals we state that we recognize the critical problems of our times, de-

mand a redirection of the services of every library, and place a heavy responsibility upon all libraries to achieve the Goals.

Mr. Cory further pointed out that despite the constantly growing demands for trained librarians, a critical shortage of librarians continues to face the profession. In view of this fact, the A.L.A. instigated a joint committee to consider ways and means of increasing the number of librarians. The Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career was organized a year ago, and since that time has been actively engaged in formulating a program for recruitment.

Mr. Cory blamed low library salaries for a major share of the current shortage of trained librarians because salaries have not kept pace with increased living costs. A survey of salaries and working conditions of library personnel is being undertaken by the U. S. Bureau of

Labor Statistics in cooperation with the A.L.A. Full-time professional positions in libraries of all types and sizes will be covered. Mr. Cory said, "The state of libraries in the United States today is not as rosy as we would like to have it nor is it altogether gloomy. While rising costs and lagging incomes have certainly cut into our activities, the fact remains that librarians are facing up to

the greatest challenge in their history. Such programs as the Four Year Goals show that librarians are aware of their responsibilities to peace and democracy in a world beset by fear, insecurity, and threats of both physical and mental tyranny. This awakening should instill in us a new pride in the significance of our profession."

A CHALLENGE

By Elizabeth Malone

Librarian; Public Library of Jonesboro and Craighead County

The rural women had no place in which to rest or take their tired children who were weary from walking the streets and window shopping while the men of the family attended to the business which had brought the family to the county seat of Centerville. One Saturday they found a place—a room with a few chairs, tables, a couch, and running water. This room had been provided for their comfort by some of the local women.

A few weeks later magazines were placed on the tables. Almost a year later, books and shelving were added. Permission was granted to borrow the books and a friendly lady was there to explain the lending rules and help them select the books they liked to read. Gradually, more shelving and books were added. In a comparatively short time the room became too small to hold the books, the mothers, and the babies. More people in the area became interested in this service and recognized the benefits which could be derived by increasing and enlarging these facilities. Soon Centerville boasted a small house, and soon it was called "our library", for surely enough, from this very small beginning, a library was established.

Interest grew and the people in the rural area wanted to take advan-

tage of this service, so a county library was organized. A tax was passed to support the library, and patrons no longer paid a subscription fee of a dollar a year, for everyone contributed to the library and every one was entitled to its use without charge.

With increased financial support the library board could organize and establish an adequate and purposeful system. A trained librarian was hired. Her experience and technical knowledge enabled her to arrange and select books for the convenience and use of the people. The little house was remodeled and enlarged to include a reference room with books on many subjects. The children now had a room filled with well selected books and colorful magazines.

Now there are reading clubs for the children and they enjoy a story hour during which time the librarian or a talented young girl in the community acquaints them with the well known authors of yesterday and today.

When school is in session, the library provides material for reports, debates, and term papers. Teachers come to the library for class room collections to help with the supplementary reading, and for help with their school programs. Visual aids such as pictures and maps are also

borrowed. Advantage is taken of the librarian's special training and her advice is solicited in selecting and buying books for their school libraries.

Urban and rural club women have learned that they can find excellent materials and help in planning stimulating club programs. Mothers come to find new ways of beautifying their homes and of understanding their children. Church leaders, parent-teacher groups, and civic club members come to the library for help with their activities. Ministers find sermon hints in books and magazines on the library shelves. Business and professional men and women have found the library an ideal place in which to relax for a few minutes during the day. They come to read the current magazines and new books which keep them informed on world affairs, and cultural activities, as well as business and economic trends.

Patients in the hospital are delighted to have the book cart, well-stocked with readable books and interesting magazines from the library, brought to their rooms twice a week.

All day long citizens of Centerville and its environs are opening the doors of the public library and finding within its walls rich sources of wisdom, understanding, and recreation.

A definition of yesterday's libraries: "Libraries are the power plants where ideas in printed language are kept ready for use and mind."¹ This is no longer adequate, for the current conception of good library service is, "the library—a center for communicating ideas." The printed word alone will not suffice, for ideas are also transmitted by sight and sound. In the modern library we find films, recordings, pictures, maps and charts.

The function of the library regardless of size is to provide the oppor-

tunity and the means of self education. Lyman Bryson in his chapter "Educating the Community Through the Library" has written that the main job of educating the community is to enlarge the freedom of men and women by letting them know how many things there are in the world worth learning and enjoying. With this in mind, we realize that a public library is merely an instrument in the hands of those who operate it.

The librarian and trustees of the Centerville Library are looking to the future. They know, as John Adams Lowe said in "Housing Tomorrow's Library,"¹ that librarians are entering on an adventurous experiment. They want their town to have a library that is a center of education and creative learning. They know that they must not build "on a hill" but in the "market place" and be as convenient and accessible to the public as the best department store. The library must have not only what it has today, but must have space for microfilms, a room where recordings can be played, a lecture and exhibit room, a film room, committee rooms, and an auditorium. They also know that all this cannot be accomplished in one day, or month or even year.

The American Library Association has set a FOUR YEAR GOAL for the re-direction of the service of every library in our country. These goals were set up to help libraries meet the demands of the coming age. Centerville is one of these libraries, and its program is to initiate or participate actively in programs of service designed to awaken interest and stimulate reading on the problems of today; to secure more informational and educational materials and so organize them that the citizens will

¹ In *The Library of Tomorrow*, symposium edited by Emily Miller Danton. A.L.A., 1939.

use them; to create activities of more interest to citizens of the community by wide awake and alert public relations; and to recruit librarians who will have this vision of service.

Yes, this cannot be done in a day or a year, but the true librarian and

the interested trustees have the vision and they realize the important and vital role the public library has to play in meeting the demands of the new kind of democracy required in this new age.

NEWS ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

Librarians are among the 20 million additional persons who may receive social security benefits if the administration's proposed, expanded social security program becomes law.

Two bills, recently presented to Congress, outline the steps necessary to extend this coverage, to increase benefits and to provide welfare services. They were introduced by Rep. Robert L. Doughton (D.-N.C.) chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which is considering the measure.

Extended Benefits Proposed

The old age survivors and disability insurance legislation (H.R. 2893) would extend benefits to the following types of employments: farmers, other self employed persons, such as doctors, lawyers, architects; agricultural labor; domestic service; nonprofit institutions (hospitals, churches, private libraries); federal employees not covered by a federal retirement system; state and local government employees where the state enters into a voluntary compact for such coverage. (Such an agreement shall provide, if the state requests it, that employees of the state or any political subdivision be excluded from coverage if they are in positions which are covered by a pension, annuity, retirement, or similar system established by the state or the subdivision of the state.)

Maximum Insurance Benefits

The proposed bill also increases maximum monthly insurance benefits from the present \$85 to \$150. Other provisions are, briefly: 1) The retirement age for women employees, wives and widows, is reduced from 65 to 60. The retirement age for men remains at 65. 2) A retired beneficiary could earn up to \$50 a month instead of \$14.99 now permitted, without loss of benefits. 3) A lump sum burial benefit would be paid in cases where a person dies insured. The present law provides for a lump sum payment only in case no monthly insurance benefit is payable.

Representative Doughton explained the disability insurance proposals as follows: 1) Employees covered by old age insurance (except federal and military employees) are to be covered for short-time sickness benefits, and all employees and the self-employed are to be covered for extended disability insurance. 2) Benefits for short periods of disability are to be based upon the previous wages and number of dependents of the disabled person with a weekly minimum of \$8. The maximum is \$30 per week for a single person and \$45 for a person with three or more dependents.

"Benefits for extended periods of disability are to be computed the same as those for old-age and survivors insurance—that is, amount of wages, length of time in the insur-

ance system, and number of dependents".

The rate for librarians and others in the "newly covered" category would be two per cent for employer and employee, effective Jan. 1, 1950.

Under the proposed legislation, the new rate for employees now covered would be established at one and one-half per cent for both employer and employee, beginning July 1, 1949, the effective date for increased benefits. The present rate of contribution is one per cent for both. The new rate would be further increased to two per cent on Jan. 1, 1950, when temporary disability insurance provisions become payable.

The expanded program would provide funds to cover cost of benefits for the next 5 to 10 years, depending on economic conditions.

LIBRARY BEATITUDES

Blessed are they who have good libraries,
For to them comes the heritage of the ages.
Blessed is the library whose books are as good friends
For out of friendship comes strength and peace.
Blessed are the trustees who bring enthusiasm to their board meetings
For out of those enthusiasms come great visions.
Blessed are the librarians who offer hospitality
For often they entertain angels unaware.
And blessed are they who find in library books—ideals,
For from these books great leaders may arise.

NEWS NOTES

TEXARKANA STORY: The Texarkana Altrusans are sponsoring the publication and sale of the booklet, "Texarkana Story", by Lucille Holland. "The booklet," says Mrs. Janie Byrd, "does not deal in personalities. It is the story of a struggle of pioneers to build a city out of the wilderness, and it should engender a feeling of loyalty and pride in the descendants of its pioneers." The Altrusa Club hopes to wind up the sale of 50,000 copies within two or three weeks. One thousand copies will be autographed by the author. Proceeds from the sale will go into a fund for a new building for Texarkana Public Library.

ARCADELPHIA-CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY: The Woman's Library Association held its meeting at the library, February 18th. The president, Miss Martha Green, presented Miss Amy Jean Green, who talked on "Historic Houses in Arkadelphia".

and Mrs. Jett Black, who discussed "Antique Glass." Mrs. Black illustrated her talk by showing certain pieces from her mother's collection. Mrs. Joseph Jackson, librarian, announced that several new books had been received for the memorial shelf.

McCRORY LIBRARY: The McCrory branch of the Woodruff County Library is located in the basement of the Methodist Church. It is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Mrs. Turner Fakes, Librarian, reports that they now have 284 library members.

ARKANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE: "There are now approximately 2,000 books in the children's library at Arkansas State Teachers College," said Miss Gladys Sachse, children's librarian. Practically all of these books have been obtained since the children's library was wiped

out when the training school was destroyed by fire a year ago last fall. As soon as the former children's library was destroyed, Miss Constance Mitchell, head librarian at ASTC, set about rebuilding the collection. Almost 1,300 volumes were already on hand when Miss Sachse reported for work as children's librarian this fall. The children's library was given a temporary location on the first floor of Torreyson Library while the new training school was being constructed.

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY: The Hempstead County Library received 13 subscriptions to magazines from the Hope Auto Company. They include: Scientific American, Atlantic Monthly, American Mercury, Jack and Jill, Coronet, Open Road for Boys, Skyways, Hygeia, Saturday Review of Literature, Ladies Home Journal, Seventeen, and Harpers.

PIGGOTT LIBRARY: The little birds seem to be very much at home around the library this spring. Thanks to the welcome signs put out for them in the way of a bird feeder and plenty of seeds, a gift from Miss Inez Hartsoe, and the little blue bird house ready for the birds to move into, built by Ralph Meyers.

FOREMAN LIBRARY: The new sign placed at the Foreman Public Library identifies it as a branch of the Southwest Arkansas Regional. This sign and the ones for the regional deposits at Alleene, Arden Wonthrop, and Richmond were made in the Foreman agricultural classes under the direction of the instructor, Ralph Whitmore.

SMACKOVER LIBRARY: Solon Hodge Post No. 161 of the American Legion is sponsoring a drive to defray operating expenses of the Smackover Public Library for the next year. The goal is \$500. Many

individuals and organizations have already contributed.

PERRY AND CONWAY COUNTY: A significant step in the development of this section of the state was taken Monday afternoon when a joint meeting of the Conway County Library Board and the newly-appointed Perry County Library Board was held at the Carnegie Library in Morrilton. All members of both boards were present to hear Miss Irene Mason, Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Library Commission, outline tentative plans for establishing regional library service for the two counties.

POCAHONTAS LIBRARY, RANDOLPH COUNTY: Bargain week is being held at the library. Overdues on all books, regardless of the time they have been out, will be cancelled, if returned to the library between January 31st and February 5th.

SPRINGDALE, WASHINGTON COUNTY: Mrs. Beavers, librarian, claims it has really been fun checking out books to the home demonstration clubs. The grandest part is that the members really look over the library. They call out titles to one another and tell who would like a certain book. They know their neighbors and are interested in them. We have found that some books have not been out of the library in eight years. This is regrettable, since all of these books were carefully selected. Now, with all these club members interested, the books are leaving the shelves fast.

TEACHER EXTRAORDINARY: In a time when most people are asking for higher wages, it is refreshing to find a teacher putting more than her spare time into the school library. Mrs. Myra Blackman, teacher of history and librarian of the Sulphur Springs High School, Benton County, is doing just that. She has volunteered to act as librarian when the

library is moved from the school building to the American Legion Hut during the summer. It will be open five afternoons a week. For her public service the Civic Association unanimously passed a resolution citing her for distinguished service beyond the call of duty. Mrs. Blackman is a native of Carthage, Missouri, where she finished high school, later taking a degree from the Kansas State Agricultural College. She also holds a master's degree from Columbia University.

STUTTGART LIBRARY: The lovely home of Mrs. Earl Rhodes, 422 South Porter Street was opened to the public Wednesday, March 16th, for the annual Silver Tea sponsored by the Stuttgart Womans Club for the benefit of the Stuttgart Public Library. About one hundred women showed their interest in the city library by contributing to the library fund. The tea committee turned the proceeds which amounted to \$100 over to the public library.

WARREN HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY: P. H. Herrig stated that

unless the Warren High School Library receives some outside help it will fail to meet the requirements set up by the North Central Association. He said that it is the plan of the school to employ a full time librarian. When she reports for duty the room will not be used for a study hall but only as Warren High's Library.

NEW LIBRARY STATION: Independence County Library has opened a neighborhood deposit in the home of Mrs. Alvin Green in the West Addition of Newark. "If there is anyone in another section of Newark who would be willing to keep books for the family and neighbors to borrow, please contact Mrs. Griffith at the library in Batesville and arrangements will be made immediately." Thus reads a notice in the Newark Journal.

LEPANTO: The Thespian Society, Troupe No. 528 of the Lepanto High School donated \$75 to the Library. Mrs. W. C. Palmer is high school librarian.

A.L.A. REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Programs of the seven A.L.A. regional conferences will emphasize regional problems. Planning committees are striving for large general meetings, in an effort to bring all librarians together regardless of their lines of work. Some regions will hold pre-conference and post-conference workshops.

In addition to regional problems, some problems at the national level will be considered. It is expected that Dr. Robert D. Leigh, director of the Public Library Inquiry, will be a speaker at each of the conferences. In many cases members of his staff will be present. Most of the regional planning committees report that their programs will also include discussions of Part II of the final report of the A.L.A. Fourth Activities Committee, implementation of the national plans and development of libraries, and recruiting personnel.

Date and Place

Planning Committee

Aug. 22-25

Vancouver, B. C.

Canada

University of B. C.

Campus

Far West

Edwin Truman Coman, Jr. Graduate School of Business Library, Stanford University, Stanford, California, Chairman Marco Gerson Thorne, Washoe County Library, Reno, Nevada.

*John S. Richards, Public Library, Seattle, Washington.

Mary E. Blossom, Library Association of Portland, Oregon.

Sept. 2-5

Fort Collins,

Colorado

Colorado A & M College

Campus

Trans-Mississippi

Joseph C. Shipman, Linda Hall Technological Library, Kansas City, Mo., Chairman Donald Everett Strout, University of Denver Libraries, Denver, Colo.

*Ralph B. Esterquest, University of Denver Libraries, Denver, Colo.

Oct. 3-5

Atlantic City

Ambassador Hotel

Middle Atlantic

James E. Bryan, Public Library, Newark, N. J., Chairman

Richard D. Minnich, Baltimore County Library, Towson, Maryland

John B. Kaiser, Public Library, Newark, N. J.

*ALA Program Committee representative

Date and Place**Planning Committee**

Oct. 12-15
Swampscott
Massachusetts
New Ocean House

New England
Lysla I. Abbott, Public Library, Portland, Me.,
Chairman
Harold A. Wooster, Free Public Library, New-
ton, Mass.
Stuart C. Sherman, Public Library, Providence,
R. I.
R. Keith Doms, Public Library, Concord, N. H.
*Milton E. Lord, Public Library, Boston, Mass.

Oct. 26-29
Miami Beach, Fla.
Floridian Hotel

Southeastern
Randolph W. Church, State Library, Richmond,
Virginia, Chairman

Exhibits—
Municipal Pier

*Tommie Dora Barker, Emory University Li-
brary School, Emory University, Georgia
Mrs. Augusta B. Richardson, Alcorn Public Li-
brary, Corinth, Miss.

Nov. 9-12
Grand Rapids
Michigan
Pantlind Hotel

Midwest
Ralph A. Ulveling, Public Library, Detroit,
Mich., Chairman
*Harold F. Brigham, State Library, Indianapolis,
Indiana
Ruth W. Gregory, Public Library, Waukegan,
Ill.

Nov. 20-23
Fort Worth
Texas
Blackstone Hotel

Southwestern
James E. Gourley, Public Library, Tulsa, Okla-
homa, Chairman
*Clarence S. Paine, Carnegie Library, Oklahoma
City, Oklahoma
Irene Mason, State Library Commission, Little
Rock, Arkansas

*ALA Program Committee representative

